

Doin' the

## **2016 Annual Report**

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I dreamed that life was joy, I woke up, And I realized life was service, I served And realized service is joy

-Rabindranath Tagore



If you were a fly on the wall of the Fayette County Mental Health Court, you would hear the phrase, "just focus on doing the next right thing", invoked frequently. Individuals, who have struggled mightily with circumstances and choices made in the throes of debilitating illness and addiction find those first, emerging steps often fraught with inherent detours. It is pure joy and exhilaration to bear witness to the time when their combination of strategies begins to coalesce into – 'one-foot-in-front-of-the-other', steady, path-walking progress, or "doing the next right thing", consistently...sustainably.

Looking toward the future, NAMI Lexington has always and will continue to exhibit that same persevering dedication to Mission in charting and fulfilling the course and destiny of the 'next right things' for our organization. With our eyes cast toward new horizons we vision serving families with children and adolescents in more direct and compelling ways - addressing pressing concerns around the importance of early intervention, diagnosis, prevention and treatment. We also will be focusing on helping them navigate the complex and often overwhelming special education/ special needs environment in the public school system, with hands on advice and assistance from a seasoned, veteran provider of special education services, who will help us do the next right thing for this important and emerging population.

In coming years we want to look around our "table" and

Kelly Gunning, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs

see much more diversity. We want to engage with our entire community and reflect the needs and strengths of every neighbor. Energy and resources will be cultivated and brought to bear to this very important and ever present gap in our service array. I think it is very important to recognize both the strengths and challenges of our Mission as we strive to grow forward. We have learned over the years that often to grow forward you 'fail forward'. It is in looking through this lens that I frame our efforts at increasing diversity. In past years, we have had strong leaders from inside our diverse communities who guided this effort to promising results. When those leaders move or move on it takes time to reestablish new leaders and in the meantime there are underserved needs. We have procured young, new leadership and add to that some experienced elder wisdom for what we hope will be the 'next right thing' as we strive to increase our presence and reliability in areas of diversity and cultural competence.

We will need help, resources and co-visionaries to achieve these next crucial steps. We will need the continued, unfailing dedication to our existing programs and services. We will need YOU, your expertise, your creativity and your Spirit to meet the never ending challenge to step up and do the next right thing – for NAMI Lexington and all those we so humbly and gratefully serve.

# Doin' the NEXTright thing...



To quote one staff member and fearless leader – Wheeewwweeee!! I'm not sure on the spelling, but certainly know the sentiment. Following Tom Peters' tried and true strategic plan – "Try Things, Do Stuff" – we started off the year continuing to review and address capacity building needs.

We had already answered many of the "Capacity Building" questions found in the most popular toolkits available. Questions like:

Is our vision clear? How effective is our mission? Does our mission guide our daily work? Do our activities align with our purpose? Do we have a sustainable funding model that enables growth? Does the Board have the needed diversity, expertise and connections? How proactively do we manage talent? Do we have and maintain a pipeline of talent? Do we have leadership and management succession plans in place?

How effectively do we recruit, use and retain the volunteers in our organization?

Growth brings new challenges, new questions:

How well do we develop and manage information? How well do we communicate? Internally? Externally? Do we have an appropriate Social Media presence? Do we have standardized processes that enable our work? Do we have sufficient infrastructure in place?

We keep these questions in front of us as we endeavor to be the best we can be. Implementing new stuff can be challenging – like starting 2016 by migrating data and documents to "The Cloud" – a mysterious sort of entity that we are still trying to develop a relationship with! We are up to the task(s) though and with the help of our many partners and collaborators, we are getting better every day at "building, implementing, and managing"! Thank you for all you do and for your continued support.

Phil

Thanks to all who made our 2016 NAMIWalks event a huge success. We raised more than in 2015 and were blessed with beautiful weather, a big turn out and spirited crowd! We had face painting, inflatables, food, music, photo booth, horseback riding and even puppies!

This year, not all of our walkers were at the walk. 2016 marked the first year of virtual walkers who could sign up online and raise money even if they were unable to attend.

Many thanks to our NAMIWalks Sponsors

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Since its beginning in 2009, Participation Station has consistently grown from year to year. The program is a testament to the power and effectiveness of peer support. Participation Station has also become a community of individuals who seamlessly have integrated into the community at large. They routinely utilize and partner with many local and state-wide programs and activities. Each year the Leadership at PS develop new programming and activities that help people in their recovery and combat stigma. Some highlights from 2016 include:

#### **Warmline Expansion**

Thanks to our funding from Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG), this year we were able to actually pay our peer warmline operators bringing about more consistency of the service which has resulted in much higher call volume, meaning more help to many that are living in isolation!

#### **System Navigator**

Kirk Reynolds, APSS continues to grow in his role as System Navigator at Participation Station. Kirk assists people with any issues they many be dealing with whether it be housing, obtaining a GED, benefits management, healthcare, etc. His goal is not to take care of issues for anyone, but to help assist them to help themselves. He frequently removes barriers, consults with their other providers and sometimes just provides support and understanding.

### Writing for Recovery

Under the leadership of Arneda Carmickle, APSS, this group meets regularly at PS and offers an avenue for participants to express their experiences through the written word, be that poetry, journaling, stories or other written mediums. Arneda has also partnered with the Carnegie Center who sends someone to PS monthly for the program.

#### Whole Health Improvement Program (WHIP)

Through a partnership with New Beginnings Bluegrass, this program offers overall wellness support to all. PS hosts 2 weekly activity programs, Tai Chi and Meditation, and a monthly Health Forum to education participants on critical healthcare issues. We have been very fortunate to offer the services of Catherine Permin, APRN who volunteers a Saturday each month to offer free of charge health screening and services to anyone in need. We couldn't be more grateful to be able to offer this service.

### \$ewing for P\$

This is a program led by Louise Brunelle. In efforts to raise funding for the programming at Participation Station, these industrious ladies meet regularly to work on sewing crafts. In addition they have been working on blankets to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the Catholic Action Center.

### **Holiday Events**

Holidays can often be a source of depression and loneliness for individuals dealing with serious mental illness. Many are without family ties or shy away from public events. To offer a normalized experience, Participation Station hosts potlucks and celebrations on the actual holidays. Johnny Shiffer, APSS and his wonderful wife Diane frequently head up these celebrations and are to be commended for offering a family that people WANT to spend their holiday with.

#### **Immersion Program**

Participation Station has been an innovative program from it's beginning and has become a place for people to learn from their experience. In 2016 many programs have visited to see how the program is run and has become a model for Consumer Operated Services in the state. The Leadership at Participation Station invites anyone who would like to learn about the program to spend a day at PS and get lost in the magic.

## Doin' the NEXT right thing for... PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

## **Eastern State Hospital Peer Program**

We continue to be very proud of NAMI Lexington services at Eastern State Hospital and our partnership with UK Healthcare. We offer groups in the hospital's Recovery Mall, on the units, and at the Central Kentucky Recovery Center. We have facilitated a Consumer Council at the hospital and assist families and loved ones who come for visitation. Services also include orientation for staff and formal and informal peer support. The ESH Peer team is a phenomenally dedicated team that offers services 7 days a week. Their work has lead to an increased use of Participation Station services for residents of CKRC, and the LTC, ABI/TBI units. Steve Stone, APSS assists Chaplain Sibley at ESH. We want to congratulate Sherry Sexton, APSS, our ESH Peer Team Coordinator who was accepted into the University of Kentucky Masters of Social Work Program. Go Sherry!



NAMI Lexington/Eastern State Hospital/ UKHealthcare Team



2016 was another active year with KYSTARS (Kentucky System Transformation Advocating Recovery Supports). We hosted the annual KYSTARS Kentucky Consumer Conference in May with almost 400 behavioral health consumers from around the state. We also hosted the 3rd annual Kentucky Peer Excellence Awards the evening before the conference. Many of our activities centered around receiving approval as providers of Adult Peer Support Specialist Trainings by the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmen-

tal and Intellectual Disabilities. (KYDBHDID). James Haggie and the KYSTARS team worked diligently on the curriculum and conducted the first training in June in Lexington closely followed by the second training in August in Hazard, KY. We are looking forward to more trainings in the upcoming year and the proliferation of peer support throughout our entire behavioral health system. Goals for the upcoming year include expanding Mental Health First Aid throughout Kentucky, expansion of Peer Awards to more fully include Youth & Family Peer Specialists, and as always a bigger, better Consumer Conference that has already been scheduled for May 12, 2017. So, mark your calendars!



Hazard APSS Graduating Class



## Fayette County Mental Health Court Program

The Fayette Mental Health Court turns 2 November 24th. Though our growing pains continue as we learn the needs of our community, we have yet to turn away any eligible referral. We strive to increase and improve supports offered from within the NAMI family to fill the gaps in existing services, as we continue to "do the next right thing."

To date, over 70 referrals have come through the MHC. MHC has been able to work with 32 of these individuals, serving 24 of them still today. Keeping in mind—not all referrals are accepted based on the regulations of the court and some that are accepted decide against joining the program due to length or requirements, etc...not everyone is ready to get well or do the work required to get well. Similarly, some take the program to get out of jail or comply with probation only to decide and demonstrate that they are unwilling to participate in achieving their goals nor abide by program regulations, in which case the participant has opted to quit the program and on a few occasions, the court has had to discharge clients for major/repetitive rule violations and new offenses.

At entry, we have seen 43% of participants homeless or in precarious/non-permanent housing situations...of those, all are served to enter safe, temporary housing or shelter immediately upon release from jail. Then, the team works to support them with finding transitional and permanent housing.

At entry, we find 71% of participants are duallydiagnosed, meaning they have a mental illness diagnosis as well as an issue with substance abuse. These participants are advised to address both needs simultaneously as is recommended as a best practice, engaging in therapy and medication management while attending Double Trouble in Recovery groups and various other community sobriety support groups.

At entry, we find 66% of participants not engaged in treatment, services, or medication. This is a priority for the program and staff will assist participants with getting intake appointments as soon as possible, sometimes even prior to jail release or program acceptance.

At entry, 69% were repeat offenders. While in the program, 37% re-offended with new charges—of those, 63% were asked to leave due to no longer being appropriate for the program or they opted to terminate participation.

We have had 3 successful graduates, one of whom has returned to the program as a mentor, assisting with the creation of a support group for fellow participants who struggle with shoplifting/kleptomania/ impulse disorders, a service not currently offered in person in our community.

The Mental Health Court diversifies more and more each week, welcoming new participants into what is often referred to as a "family," where they volunteer to sign on to a personalized plan for recovery, rehabilitation, and resources that empowers them to move beyond their past, their illness, their addiction, and their circumstances to live the best crimefree life they choose.



## Jennifer's Story—The Next Right Thing

My name is Jennifer and I am 37 years old. This is my personal experience with Mental Illness. I want you to imagine in your mind for a minute... if you one day you woke up and you had lost your house, your car, all of your money, your job, your friends, custody of your children, your personal relationships and everything you knew to be true. That is exactly what happened to me.

These were the words of Jennifer, a courageous and caring young lady in the Fayette Mental Health Court Program who shared these words at this years NAMIWalks in October. She went on to describe her difficult childhood and struggles dealing with Bipolar Disorder, Depression & Anxiety and her eventual addictive use of substance. She also explained what life was like dealing with a father that was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. Her family encouraged her to distance herself from her father because they felt "he chooses to be the way he is." Though even with her family's lack of understanding, Jennifer always felt a "special connection to her father."

As many do, Jennifer sought relief from her illness by turning to the numbing effects of alcohol and eventually found herself arrested several times. Ironically, Jennifer credits her currently successful recovery efforts to the court ordered treatment she has received. Through Alcoholics Anonymous and Double Trouble in Recovery groups and her work in the Mental Health Court Program, Jennifer has regained hope for the future. She also has found a passion for helping others by sharing her story and experiences. "I don't have to be perfect, all I have to do is the next right thing!", she says. "What has been the most instrumental thing to turning my life around has been to take on responsibility and be accountable to others in my work and in my treatment program. She takes each day "one day at a time" and summarizes her recovery like this...

A series of bad choices made by my parents led to my existence, but a series of my own bad choices led me here today... I guess God really does have a plan. I now dream that one day I will own a home again and that my kids will want to come and live with me by their own choice, and not a a court order. But today I live just one day at a time, and doing the NEXT right thing!

## **Fayette County Mental Health Court Team**

#### Staff

Jennifer Van Ort – Coordinator Kelly Gunning – Director of Advocacy and Public Policy Randy Stafford – Community Navigator Rock Blackburn - Adult Peer Support Specialist James Haggie – Advocacy and Program Development Connie Milligan, Policy Research Associates (National GAINS Center) – Consultant

### **In-Kind Community Partners -**

Judge Kim Wilkie - Fayette District Court Heather Matics, Attorney – County Attorney's Office Ben Cabuay, Attorney - Department of Public Advocates (Public Defender) Rebecca L. Asher, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist/Forensic Evaluator - Eastern State Hospital John Landon, Attorney – Department of Public Advocates (consulting Role)

## Doin' the NEXT right thing for... OUR COMMUNITY





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Assisting families in gaining the knowledge and capacity to help their loved one and encourage the recovery process has long been central to the mission of NAMI Lexington. We have been pleased to be able to offer at least 3 Family to Family classes for the past several years.

## **Family-to-Family Statistics**

Over 100 persons enrolled in the F-2-F program in 2016			
Jan:	34 began program	Graduated 23	
Jun:	23 began program	Graduated 15	
Sep:	<u>29 began program</u>	Graduate in Nov	
	86 participants total	65 graduates to date	

## **NAMI Introductions**

Tracy Jacobson, our Director of Family Programs, also leads our NAMI Introductions Program at our Eastern State Hospital office. This program offers weekly times to meet with families both in group and individually. This program allows us to meet the needs of family members that are in crisis in a timely and helpful manner.



NAMI Lexington offers regular support groups for family members.

January	13	22
February	9	25
March	8	16
April	9	13
May	8	14
June	12	12
July	8	10
August	6	15
September	3	13
October	5	25
	81 total groups to date	165 participants

For more information on support groups call (859) 272-7891 or go to <u>www.namilex.org</u>.

Tracy helped with a state-wide NAMI teacher trainer for Family-to-Family teachers in April, along with many other public presentation and outreach opportunities at various churches, schools, universities and public arenas such as the Paris Library staff.

## Words of Hope and Gratitude from Family to Family Students.

"I felt very alone and questioned most of my decisions and feelings. The validation and support from others was uplifting and helped counter what I felt when I was in a dark and isolated place."

"I realized that others had similar experiences to mine and this was comforting. This recognition that their family member had the same behavior/issues as mine made me a believer that these behaviors truly were symptoms of the illness."

"I am listening better and controlling my emotions/ reactions. I realize I can have a positive effect on my son's recovery and this class has made it easier to talk about mental illness."



# Doin' the NEXT right thing for... FAMILIES IN CRISIS

#### NAMI Lexington Invades Frankfort!



## 2016 Advocacy Initiatives

This past year our advocacy initiatives were largely devoted toward taking the Commonwealth in the right direction on the path toward achieving better interventions and outcomes for citizens with serious mental illness. House bill 64, better known as "Tim's Law", in honor of Tim Morton, son of NAMI Lexington pioneer, Faye Morton; is deigned to be a version of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) which would allow early intervention when a person with a severe behavioral health disorder is in crisis. Tim's Law would allow for a civil court order for treatment BEFORE someone becomes dangerous and/or involved with the criminal justice system.

NAMI Lexington also focused on educational and

advocacy events related to the Medicaid Waiver being proposed by the Bevin Administration, dismantling of KYNECT and possible rollback of Medicaid expansion. We have been closely paying attention to the opiate epidemic and seeking ways to help engage with policy makers and other advocacy organizations to bring resources to bear in this most pressing public health epidemic. We will continue to stay abreast as these issues evolve. As always NAMI Lexington continues to educate and inform on advocacy issues impacting, health, behavioral health and social justice issues such as homelessness and affordable housing, living wage and access to health care.

## NAMI Lexington partners on CIT Training

NAMI Lexington remains focused on developing relationships with Law Enforcement and Corrections personnel. Individuals living in recovery and family members continue to share their stories to help train police officers and other first responders during Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training classes. It is important that the voices of those directly affected by mental illness are included in CIT training events and NAMI Lexington is honored to provide this service. We are excited to convey that the Lexington Police Department has announced that all officers will receive CIT training over the next 2 years! This is a tremendous commitment by the department and a great benefit to our community.

The Bluegrass Regional CIT board – a coalition of central Kentucky mental health stakeholders is now meeting regularly and sharing ideas for providing better solutions to individuals and families in crisis. The increased collaboration and partnerships with community organizations and law enforcement agencies to positively and proactively

Doin' the **NEXT**right thing with...

address concerns. The Bluegrass region and Georgetown Police also hosted the CIT Statewide Conference this year and representatives from NAMI Lexington were present to share information and hear presentations from a stellar lineup of Law Enforcement individuals sharing their experience and their personal stories.

NAMI Lexington was also invited to participate in the first CIT training for The Fayette County Detention Center (FCDC) this year. Corrections officers from Lexington and Louisville attended as well as personnel from the Department of Corrections in Frankfort. FCDC is also committed to providing CIT training to all their corrections officers. Our Fayette Mental Health Court team and Adult Peer Support Specialists also provide weekly visits to inmates at the detention center. These visits often result in "warm hand-offs" to the community resulting in referrals to needed services and reduced recidivism rates.





"NAMI Lexington started as a grassroots organization formed by volunteers. We recognize volunteers as an integral part of the success of NAMI Lexington. Volunteers assist with every aspect of NAMI from office work to events. We have participated in events all across central Kentucky with the help of our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers find us through partnerships with local colleges, website searches, awareness events and when seeking support for loved ones with a mental illness. "

"How can NAMI Lexington support so many programs? It is because of volunteers and the selfless hours they put into advocating, educating and supporting us."

If you would like to volunteer for NAMI Lexington call (859) 272-7891 or go to <u>www.namilexington.org/donate/volunteer-application/</u>



## **Our Fantastic Volunteer Board of Directors**

Adrain Holloway, Past President Anita Hartsfield, President Dr. Fareesh Kanga. Vice President Cindy Faulkner, Treasurer Arneda Carmickle, Secretary Directors-at-Large Dr. Rebecca Asher Leslie Beebe Randall Blackburn Barbara Harvey James Haggie Frances Howard

John Landon Julie Perry Leslie Reed Rev. Mike Sibley Steve Stone Bonnie Tracy

# Doin' the NEXT right thing with... OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



#LexEndHomelessHate Campaign 874K Rally in Frankfort Advocacy Day in Frankfort AKA @ Frankfort AKA @ UK Annual Dinner **APSS Training APSS Training Hazard BCTC Booth - James Board Meeting Life Adventure** Brenda Rosen's Social Work Class **Candlelight Vigil** Central Christian Church NAMI Info **CIT Statewide Annual Conference** Communication Techniques and NAMI info Paris Library Staff **Community Conversations Connection Support Group** Derby Party **Dress for Success EKU Presentations on Mental Health Ending the Silence ESH Peer Services ESH** Visitation Family Support Group Family to Family Class Start Family to Family Graduation **FMHC Graduation - Pot Luck** GoodGiving Guide Challenge Homelessness 101 Intergrated Behavioral Health Booth **IOOV** at The Ridge **IOOV Teacher Training** Kentucky PRA Honors David Riggsby **KY School KY Voices of Health KYSTARS Consumer Conference** Lex Coalition for Transition Age Youth May is Mental Health Month Social Media Campaign

2016 was another incredibly busy year for the staff and volunteers of NAMI Lexington. Below is a summary of the events that NAMI Lexington held, participated in, or sponsored.

Mental Health 101 Versailles Methodist Church Mental Health First Aid **Migrant Network MIAW Week** Mission Monday MLK Service Day - Volunteers at PS NAMI Info ESH New Employee Orientation NAMI Introductions NAMI KY Conference NAMI National Convention NAMIWalks NAMIWalks Kick-Off **Opportunities Fair, Homelessness in the Park Overdose Awareness Day - Voices of Hope** Peer Excellence Awards Project SAFE **PS Appreciation Day Pot Luck PS** Christmas Party **PS Halloween Party PS Yard Sale** QPR **Recovery Festival Recovery Month Social Media Campaign** Sponsored Foundation for Healthy KY Frankfort **TAYLRD** Conference Thanksgiving Party at PS **Todd Cheever UK Class Presentation UK Agency Fair** UK College of Social Work Presentation **UK Depression Screening Day UK Volunteer Fair** VA Open House Info Table - Val Valentine's Day Potluck Consumer Event Volunteer Orientation William Wells Brown/LFUCG/AKA Winburn Middle School Booth World Suicide Prevention Day - Social Media

## Doin' the NEXT right thing for... OUR COMMUNITY AND STATE

## **2016 Paid NAMI Memberships**

**Cheryl Anness** Tim Ashby Rebecca Asher Katie Banks Michael Beard Leslie Beebe Randall Blackburn John Bowe Sarah Brumfield Katrina Cable Dan Cahalan ArnedaCarmickle Julie Caudill Sandy Challman Madonna Chancellor Bonnie Collins Carolyn Colliver Amanda Combs Patricia Creighton Doug Crowdus Jennifer Deringer Lula Drewes Jeremy Emerson Pace Emmons **Robert Faesy** Cindy Faulkner David Fogarty Peggy Ford Susan Frank Greg Gabbard

Linda Garth **Kristy Grant B** Ellen Gray Laura Gray Lavada Green Terry Green Phillip Gunning Kelly Gunning Jennifer Hacker James Haggie William Hamilton David Hanna Jeanne Harris Noreen Harris Anita Hartsfield Barbara Harvey Susan Hedgecock **Robert Hess Russell Hollis** Adrain Holloway John Huang Dietrich Hubbard Ella Hunter Harold Jarboe Judy Johns **Fareesh Kanga** Toni King Patty Knox Jean Lafky John Landon

Waltr Lane Carolyn Large Greg Lavy Arneda Lawson Danielle Leach Jackie Lesperance Crystal Lovings Tamara McNabb Lisa Miller Bonita Morton **Evelyn Morton Faye Morton** Valerie Mudd Julie Neace Misty Norman **Richard Owen** Kelly Patierno Alice Perry Julie Perry Heather Petty Roxane Poskin Leslie Reed Sean Reilley **Kirk Reynolds** Peggy Richey David Riggsby **Douglas Rigsby** Philip Rowe **Ronald Sarver** John Schiffer

## 2016 Donations

In Memory of: Newton & Peggy Macleod Ms. Hisle Brian Lafky Thomas Hafley Debra Robinson

Dave & Catherine Frederich Frederick Belsak Lynn Scrivner Stiltz Jenny Gift Bill Hainsworth Caleb Beck

*In Honor of* Frank Thompson Lois Wortman Valdr T. Souder Scottie Helt

# Doin' the NEXTright thing with... OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS

**Deloris Segress** Sherry Sexton Rev. Michael Sibley **Dottie Smith** Larry Souder Donald Soule John Soule Lura Starnes Steve Stone Melissa Stull Venkatesh Sudhabhan David Susman Terrie Tate Marcie Timmerman Jolinda Todd Bonnie Tracy Jennifer Van Ort Susan Vantreese Katrina Vincent Jeramie Ward Shirley Warren **Kimberly Wilburn** Donna Wilcock Rebecca Williams James Wilson Jeanie Wolfson Mary Woolley



Sandy Johnstone Jenn Van Ort Burger Fi-Jenn Van Ort Texas Road House-Katrina Vincent Leslie Beebe Phil Gunning Leslie Reed Most Valuable Pets-James Haggie Noodles and Co-Fareesh Kanga Rebecca Asher Adrain Holloway Kelly Gunning Steve Stone Gatti Town-Kim & Jeff Frye Without the ongoing support of our incredibly supportive contractors, NAMI Lexington would be unable to offer our lifesaving safety net programming to people free of charge. This has enabled us to provide these services without concern for payer sources or insurance coverage granting access to all. This year NAMI Lexington Programs reached over 20,000 people! (20,178 to be exact!) We are very thankful for your support!







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# On to the next NEXT right thing.

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